

As 2025 draws to a close soon, we'd like to say a huge thank you to all those who've supported, prayed for, baked & bought food and drinks for and those who've given financial contributions towards costs for TYBG. We are immensely grateful for this support of our young peoples' work.

A couple of our teenagers moved on to university this term and we miss them greatly as they've moved on, but it's been a joy to welcome three members of another family who've joined the group (Noble, Nicanor & Favour)

and who've also been coming to the Penicuik High School SU Group.

We've been using the excellent Youth for Christ resources since the start of the autumn term and finding them invaluable. We've covered different aspects of prayer, had a closer look at the book of Daniel, worked through one of the hot topics on 'Doubt', looked at dark & light in relation to spirituality and, more recently, covered 'Looking Outwards', 'The Greatest Servant' and now are starting to look at our Christmas theme.

Our Christmas party on 16th December will be our final meeting for this year and we're starting to think about planning for that.

We aim to re-start on **Tuesday 13th January 2026!** If anyone else would like to join our food rota or prayer Whatsapp group, please just let Ann or Andrew know, as we'd love to have more people on board.

*Thank You!*

**Scratch Nativity - 21 December** *Joan Cape*

This year's nativity will be somewhat different from what we have done these last few years. Instead of having a small cast performing a short play for you to watch, this year we are doing something called a "scratch nativity".

No lines to learn, no rehearsals to attend - and something which everyone can take part in. It may be a little chaotic, but it should be fun, and allow everyone from the youngest to the oldest to be involved. To make it work we are inviting you to do a little bit of work beforehand. The characters involved are: Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherds, innkeepers (male and female), a donkey (and any other animals which might have been in the stable) and of course some stars.

We'd like as many of you as possible to come along with some sort of basic costume appropriate to one of these parts.



Nothing complicated - a simple headdress or prop will be fine. This means that we will have several Marys, Josephs, innkeepers etc-that's all just part of the fun.

- \* So, teatowels fastened on with a tie as a shepherd's headdress (same for Joseph and the innkeepers)
- \* shepherds could bring a sheep (toy one, please) or a crook/stick
- \* or the innkeepers might wear an apron
- \* angels need a halo on a hairband, or a bit of tinsel round your head
- \* stable animals: a toy one, or a headband with ears.....let your imagination run riot!
- \* Mary: like the men but usually white or blue (but we'll not be fussy about it!)
- \* stars - something on a headband, or a cut out star to wave at the right time.

It might make things easier if some of you who are couples come as Mary and Joseph, but that's just a suggestion which you're free to ignore!

Heart of the Matter December Schedule	
07 Dec	Dr John Lennox - Sing Global 2025
14 Dec	Colin Haxton - Executive Director Brass Tacks Ltd
21 Dec	Rt Rev Rosie Frew - Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland
25 Dec	Christmas Day: Heart of the Matter will broadcast several programmes during the day on Black Diamond FM 107.8
28-Dec	Heartbeats of 2025 - Part 1 A selection of guests from the year.

**Weekly Broadcasting Schedule**

**Black Diamond FM 107.8:** Sunday 9 am. and 7 am. (repeat)

**Crystal FM 107.4:** Sunday at 11 am, 12 midnight, Sunday, Tuesday 11am

**Alive FM:** 107.3: Sunday 12 noon, Tuesday 1 am.

**A Church Service on Black Diamond FM 107.8/100.7 FM every Sunday morning at 8 am.**

**Website:** <https://www.heartofthematter.biz>

**Carol singing in the precinct**  
**December 20th from 10.30 – 12.00**

Carol singing in the precinct on Saturday December 20th from 10.30 – 12.00.

All are welcome so please come and join us to sing out the Good News of the birth of Jesus. We will start outside the Job Centre where there is some shelter and if the weather is good we may move along the precinct.

**Just follow the music!**

Trinity Community December Diary See front page for Christmas events calendar	
7, 14, 21, 28 December 7.15pm	Sunday evening Prayer Meeting - Church Hall
8, 15, 22, 29 December 7.00pm	Monday Bible Study Group - Small Hall. Details Kathleen Downey 07985 294495
8, 15, 22, 29 December 7.15pm	Monday Bible Study Group - Zoom. Details Sheena Dawe 07810 477597
8, 15, 22, December 7.30pm	Monday Bible Study Group - - Zoom. Details from Neil & Joan Cape 674276
8, 15, 22, 29 December 7.30pm	Monday Bible Study Group - Various homes. Details Ruth Aird <a href="mailto:rutheaird@outlook.com">rutheaird@outlook.com</a>
8 December	Guild Christmas Lunch - Giovanni Italian Bistro
9 December 10.00am	Tuesday House Group - Small Hall. Details Mary Darling 01968 660585.
9, 16, 23, 30 December 7.00pm	Tuesday House Group - Various homes. Details Caroline McIntosh 07747 894046
10, 17 December 10.00am	Wednesday Bible Study Group - Small Hall. Contact Bill Webster 07955 234849
11, 18, December 10.00am to 12 noon	Coffee and Chat - Church Hall
12 December 7.30pm	Community Choir Christmas Concert - Church Hall.
16 December 7.30pm	Kevoch Choir - Christmas Concert : In the church sanctuary
28 December 11.00am	Joint Sunday Service - Penicuik North Kirk
07 January 10.45am	Friendship Hour - Small Hall. Contact Margaret Webster 07761 096472

**Pastoral Care** - Please remember that we are always here for church members and for anyone in the community, and you are welcome to phone (in confidence) at any time for a chat, prayer, or to source other help or to request a visit;

Either: John Urquhart (01968 382116) Margaret Webster (01968 672347 or 07761 096 472) or Wilma Wilson (07719 665505)

# DECEMBER 2025

# TC News

Newsletter of Penicuik Trinity Community Church

You can read this newsletter at Penicuik Trinity Community Church website <https://www.penicuiktrinitycommunity.church>. To sign up for an eCopy of this newsletter to be sent direct to your inbox each month, saving paper and other resources, just send a request email to [penicuiktrinitycommunitymedia@gmail.com](mailto:penicuiktrinitycommunitymedia@gmail.com)

## CHRISTMAS AT PENICUIK CHURCHES

*What's on this Christmas? 2025*

PENICUIK CHURCHES TOGETHER hope4 penicuik

Christmas Services and Activities in Penicuik 2025			
Saturdays on 6 Dec, 13 Dec, 20 Dec - <b>Activities for all – 11am - 2pm - Food Facts Friends, 42 John St</b> Christmas music, hot drinks, snacks, a special visitor.			
Wed 10	<i>A Light in the Darkness:</i> for those who find the Christmas season challenging or difficult (Refreshments after)	7.30pm	Hosted by St James the Less (Penicuik Churches Together)
Sat 13	<i>A walk through Christmas: for all the family Crafts, stories with some of the characters in the Nativity story, refreshments. Carol singing from 3pm – 3.30 and 4pm – 4.30</i>	2.00pm - 5.00pm	Trinity Community Church A Messy Church/Joint churches event
Sun 14	<i>Christmas Songs of Praise</i>	11am	Penicuik North Kirk
Sat 20	<i>Carol Singing in the Precinct</i>	10.30am - noon	Joint Churches
Sun 21	<i>Nativity Service</i>	10:30am	Trinity Community Church
	<i>Christingle Service</i>	11am	Penicuik North Kirk
	<i>Evening Service (followed by tea, coffee &amp; mince pies)</i>	6.30pm	Baptist Church
Wed 24	<i>A Service of Lessons and Carols</i>	7pm	St James the Less
	<i>Vigil Mass</i>	6pm	Sacred Heart
	<i>All-age Christmas Eve Gathering</i>	4.30pm	Trinity Community Church
	<i>Christmas Eve Service</i>	6.30pm	Penicuik North Kirk
Thu 25	<i>Midnight Mass</i>	11.30pm	St James the Less
	<i>Watchnight Service (hot drinks from 11pm)</i>	11.30pm	Trinity Community Church
	<i>Welcome the King</i>	10.30am	Penicuik North Kirk
Sun 28	<i>Holy Communion for Christmas Day</i>	10.30am	St James the Less
	<i>Christmas Morning Celebration</i>	10.30am	Trinity Community Church
	<i>Christmas Morning Mass</i>	11am	Sacred Heart
Sun 28	<i>Christingle Service: for the young &amp; young at heart</i>	4.00pm	St James the Less
These are the special services/events. Sunday services are at normal times unless otherwise stated. For individual church websites please see the links from: <a href="http://www.penicuikchurchestogether.org.uk">www.penicuikchurchestogether.org.uk</a>			
May God bless you this Christmas and throughout 2026. From all at the Manse.			



## Remembrance Service - 9 November



Presentation of the Colours

The annual Remembrance service with the Royal British Legion returned to Trinity Community Church, after the venue change to PNK last year. Following the closure of the Royal British Legion at the top of Kirkhill some changes to the format were introduced.

The march down to the church prior to the morning Remembrance service was curtailed, as was the march from the church to the war memorial after the service.

However your church managed to pickup the previous organisers reins to contact the organisations and plan this years service.

We welcomed current members from the Royal British Legion, Boys Brigade and Scouts Association, Army cadets, Girl Guiding, including Brownies and Rainbows, members of the Orange Lodge, and representatives from Midlothian Council. Penicuik Hunter and Lass Martin Lyon and Ellie Wetherspoon were also with us. Representing his Majesty the King was the Rachel Oliphant, Deputy Lord-Lieutenant of Midlothian.

Our minister the Rev John Urquhart led the service, both in the church and later at the war memorial in Montgomery Park. Penicuik Silver Band provided the musical lead for many of the hymns, marching in the colours at the start of the service, and marching them out at the conclusion of our service, after leading the National Anthem.



Our service started at 10.45am to arrive at the two minute silence at 11.00am, with the Last Post played by Silver Band bugler Anna Florence, and the Lament by a member of Glencorse Pipe Band. Anna then played Reveille.

The first scripture reading from Matthew 5 was read by Geoff King, Leader in Charge, 48th Edinburgh Boys' Brigade, with the second reading from Luke 15 read by Rachel Oliphant, Deputy Lord-Lieutenant of Midlothian.



Two short videos were shown, the first prior to the readings; Private John Borland: A WWII Commemorative Film is a short film about the true story of a Scottish soldier who relied on his faith as a prisoner of war during World War II. The film was created to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day and shares a story of faith and endurance. The film is intended to share Borland's story of courage and faith to inspire a new generation.

The second after the sermon; Forgiveness: Corrie Ten Boom with Nicky Gumbel. Gumbel uses Corrie Ten Boom's story to illustrate Christian principles; God's strength, Hope and Joy, and Forgiveness: He quotes her reflections on forgiveness in the context of overcoming evil. Her story of surviving the Ravensbrück concentration camp is used to emphasize that God can provide healing, salvation, and the ability to witness to His truth even in the face of immense hardship.

Both these are included in our service video recording at <https://youtu.be/hUBzCreoi9U>



After the service, there being no formal parade to the war memorial, the organisations made their way through the precinct to Wilson Street and Montgomery Park, or through Lambs Pend and Jackson Street. Our minister Rev John Urquhart led the service at the war memorial. Once again the Silver Band bugler Anna Florence played the Last Post and Reveille for the 2 minute silence.

## Guild - Street Pastors 3 November - Report by Jenny Ramsay

Our speaker today was Gerard McIver, Coordinator from Edinburgh Street Pastors. He began with a video showing us something of the work that the charity does.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KJ-QAVxlxDc>

Street Pastors began in London in 2003 and came to Edinburgh in 2009, the volunteers are all Christians who offer practical solutions to urban problems within the city's nightlife from alcohol/drug abuse to loneliness with a combination of listening, engaging, caring and helping.



The teams of 3 – 6 people go out in the Cowgate, Grassmarket and Tollcross areas between 7 p.m and 4 a.m. They wear a uniform and are also police vetted so are recognised as safe people, liaising with appropriate authorities when needed. They stop to talk and listen to people offering tea, coffee and soup. Prayer is also available if people wish and is often accepted and they have Gospel booklets and small Bibles to give out. The Pastors have information cards with details of accommodation and sources of food where people can get any additional support they need.

The teams carry a large blue backpack and Gerard showed us all the contents which included hats, gloves, flipflops, ponchos, first aid kit, tissues, water, foil blanket, disposable gloves, flasks of tea and coffee with paper cups, biscuits and a Bible. Lollipops are also carried and used to defuse difficult situations! There is evidence that through the Street Pastors compassionate and caring work there has been a reduction in crime on the street, offering hope for the future.



## Colinton Tunnel Project - 17 November



Our speaker today was Mike Scott, the project manager from the Colinton Tunnel Project which is Scotland's largest Heritage Mural Project. Mike began by telling us about the history of the railway which started in Victorian times running from Balerno to Slateford transporting goods from the many mills along the Water of Leith together with passengers going for picnics in the countryside.

After the railway closed a walkway was developed and it was many years later in 2016 that a charity was set up to benefit the community in Colinton where the closure of the bank had caused a decline in local businesses. It was felt that some public artwork could bring visitors back and help stop graffiti. Also improving the lighting in the tunnel would enhance public safety. 600 local people from schools, army families, art groups and many others took part in this social project.

Work began in 2018 with preparation of the wall surfaces involved scraping off soot and grime with wire brushes and then undercoating with masonry paint. Lead Muralist was Chris Rutherford who worked with Street Artists Craig Robertson and Duncan Peace. The murals are based on Robert Louis Stevenson's poem "From a Railway Carriage" and incorporate local history. People depicted are all based on real people, some local and some famous.

The project cost £100,000 which was raised from grants together with many donations from the local community. There are ongoing costs of £7,500 per year with maintenance and also new artwork. Mike showed us slides of the mural and people who had been involved. There was also merchandise that was available to buy including tea towels, calendars, cards, jigsaws and colouring books.

## Christmas Fayre - 29 November Report by Margaret Black



This years Christmas Fayre attracted a great crowd to checkout the stalls, offering a wide range of Christmas gift ideas and stocking fillers. Toys galore were on display for boys and girls, and jewellery for those looking for something more 'grown up'.

Of course the home baking stall was an instant attraction, placed close to the entrance to entice new arrivals to buy some cakes, scones, or a fruit loaf or two. The bottle stall, next to the home baking drew many visitors, where a lucky ticket would win you something in a bottle, from champagne, wine, or a beer. My luck was in this year drawing a ticket that gained me a bottle of French Malbec wine.

Baby clothes knitted locally joined cards, gift bags and other desirable 'presents'. Hampers, children's toys, games, books and CD's joined the Tombola where yet more prizes were on offer.



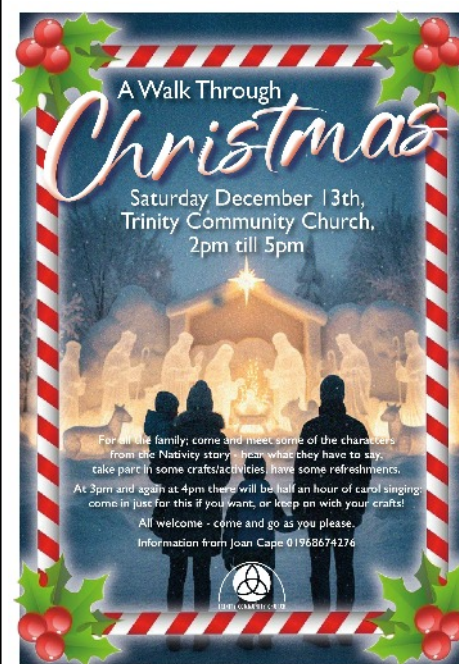
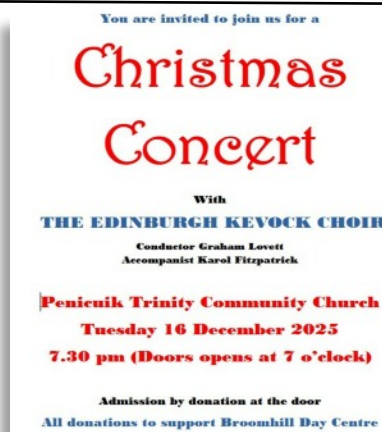
David and Janis Hogg ran a Christian Aid stall, raising over **£75** for the charity. The Brownies also sported a table with prizes for choosing a winning card. The Big Raffle had not one but two spectacular Teddy Bears to be won.



The entry ticket also included refreshments in the shape of scones, cakes and plenty of tea and coffee to join in the chat with friends and new acquaintances, making a great morning out.

Margaret Black reported that the Fayre raised a staggering **£1036.40** for church funds, one of the the highest amounts raised for this annual event.

Thank you to all who visited and helped raise this amazing total, and to the helpers and organisers who made the event such an outstanding success.



## A Walk Through Christmas

Saturday December 13th, Trinity Community Church, 2pm till 5pm

For all the family, throughout the afternoon: come and meet some of the characters from the Nativity story - hear what they have to say, take part in some crafts/activities, have some refreshments.

At 3pm and again at 4pm there will be half an hour of carol singing, accompanied by David McGavin from St James (on the organ) along with a couple of quieter ones led by Andrew Dunsire and Caroline Toms with guitars.

All welcome - come and go as you please. Come just for the carols, just for the stories and crafts, or a bit of both.

Information from Joan Cape 01968 674276